

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 212485
ORIGIN IO-14

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 DHA-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07
/077 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNP:RHARE:RLBARRY:MR
APPROVED BY P:PCHABIB

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O R 061438Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212485

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SHUM, IS

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

REF: TEL AVIV 5571

SUMMARY: DEPARTMENT IS CONCERNED OVER THE EFFECT WHICH
ALLEGATIONS OF ISRAELI MISTREATMENT AND TORTURE OF ARAB
PRISONERS WILL HAVE ON ISRAELI IMAGE AND STRATEGIC
POSITION AT THE 32ND UNGA. THIS HAS BEEN EXPRESSED IN
ASSISTANT SECRETARY MAYNES' MEETING WITH FONMIN DAYAN
AND MORE RECENTLY HERE IN MEETING BETWEEN SPECIAL ASSISTANT
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS DERIAN AND ISRAELI COUNSELOR BAR-ON. WE
THINK IT WILL HELP COUNTER INEVITABLE ATTACKS ON ISRAEL
IN UPCOMING UNGA IF GOI WOULD INVITE OBJECTIVE INTER-
NATIONAL BODY TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS. EMBASSY IS
REQUESTED TO DISCUSS SUBJECT WITH GOI.

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1. DEPT IS ESPECIALLY CONCERNED OVER THE EFFECT WHICH
ALLEGATIONS OF ISRAELI MISTREATMENT AND TORTURE OF
ARAB PRISONERS WILL HAVE ON ISRAELI IMAGE AND STRATEGIC
POSITION AT THE 32ND UNGA. SPECIAL ATTENTION AND
PUBLICITY GIVEN TO SUCH ALLEGATIONS AT THE UN
COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN FEBRUARY OF THIS YEAR

AND MOST RECENTLY IN ARTICLE AND RELATED EDITORIAL ON TORTURE OF ARAB PRISONERS APPEARING IN JUNE 19 SUNDAY TIMES OF LONDON, PROMISE TO GIVE THIS ASPECT OF THE ANNUAL DISCUSSION OF ISRAELI HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES MORE THAN THE USUAL IMPACT. SUNDAY TIMES ARTICLE AND EDITORIAL HAVE ALREADY BEEN CIRCULATED IN AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE 32ND GA.

2. TORTURE ALLEGATIONS WILL DOUBTLESS RECEIVE FULL AIRING IN THE REPORT WHICH WILL BE PRODUCED BY THE UNGA SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. PREVIOUS COMMITTEE REPORTS HAVE HAD COMPARATIVELY SUBDUED IMPACT DUE TO THE ISRAELI POSITION CHARGING INTRINSIC BIAS OF THE THREE COMMITTEE MEMBERS, A POSITION WHICH HAS GAINED SOME DEGREE OF ACCEPTANCE. THE SUNDAY TIMES IS A NEW, MORE RESPONSIBLE SOURCE, AND ITS ACCOUNT WILL BE MORE DIFFICULT TO DISMISS OUT OF HAND. AN ADDITIONAL FACTOR IS THAT THE PROBLEM OF TORTURE IS ONE WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVING CLOSE ATTENTION BY THE UNGA DURING THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS AS CONSTITUTING THE MOST SHOCKING OF CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES IN THE WORLD.

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3. AS REPORTED REFTEL, THIS SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED IN MAYNES-DAYAN MEETING OF JULY 25. AT THE TIME ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE OFFICIALS EXPRESSED GREAT INTEREST IN THE IDEA OF INVITING AN OBJECTIVE INTERNATIONAL TEAM TO LOOK INTO THE LONDON SUNDAY TIMES ALLEGATIONS. AMBASSADOR ROHN IN PARTICULAR TOLD MAYNES HE THOUGHT THE IDEA HAS "POTENTIAL." DERIAN AND BAR-ON DISCUSSED QUESTION IN MORE DETAIL SUBSEQUENTLY. OUR AIM, WHICH ISRAELIS PRESUMABLY SHARE, IS TO SEEK MEANS OF DEFUSING ISSUE AT UNGA. ISRAELI INVITATION TO AN OBJECTIVE INTERNATIONAL BODY TO INVESTIGATE ALLEGATIONS, PARTICULARLY THOSE MADE BY SUNDAY TIMES, WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR BOTH US AND ISRAEL TO TURN ASIDE CRITICISM OF ALLEGED ISRAELI ACTIONS. SIMPLE DENIALS OR REBUTTALS OF THE CRITICISM WOULD NOT CARRY AS MUCH WEIGHT AS REPORT OF SUCH A GROUP.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY SHOULD APPROACH MFA AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL TO FOLLOW UP ON MAYNES-DAYAN AND DERIAN-BAR-ON DISCUSSION, PREFERABLY IN CONTEXT OF GENERAL DISCUSSION OF ISSUES WHICH WILL ARISE AT UNGA' OPPORTUNITY SHOULD BE USED TO EXPRESS OUR GRATIFICATION

AT ISRAELI ACTION IN NOTIFYING UNESCO OF ITS READINESS
TO RECEIVE AN INVESTIGATIVE MISSION AND TO ASK IF
SIMILAR ACTION IS PLANNED FOR WHO. IN DISCUSSING
TORTURE ISSUE, YOU MIGHT ACKNOWLEDGE OUR AWARENESS OF
GOI PUBLIC STATEMENT ON SUNDAY TIMES STORY. YOU SHOULD
EMPHASIZE THAT IF ISRAELIS WERE WILLING TO INVITE AN
INVESTIGATIVE BODY THEY WOULD, OF COURSE, CHOOSE ONE
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TO ACT SOON IN ORDER NOT TO APPEAR TO BE REACTING TO
PRESSURES OF THE DEBATE AND ALSO IN ORDER TO PROVIDE
THE US AND WESTERN EUROPEANS WITH A SOLID ARGUMENT FOR
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CRITICIZING AS PREMATURE ANY PROPOSALS FOR ACTION BY
THE UNGA.

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PAGE 01 STATE 212485
ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

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DRAFTED BY:IO/UNESCO:RDFORSTER:JU

APPROVED BY:IO/SA:PBUNGE

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R 080404Z SEP 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212485

NESCO

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 212485 SENT ACTION TEL AVIV INFO GENEVA
USUN NEW YORK SEP 06.

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 212485

E.O. 11652: GDS

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PRESSURES OF THE DEBATE AND ALSO IN ORDER TO PROVIDE THE US AND WESTERN EUROPEANS WITH A SOLID ARGUMENT FOR

CRITICIZING AS PREMATURE ANY PROPOSALS FOR ACTION BY
THE UNGA.

VANCE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 06-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1376039
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: HUMAN RIGHTS IN OCCUPIED TERRITORIES
TAGS: PORG, SHUM, IS
To: TEL AVIV
Type: TE
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Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
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